

Minutes of... Children's Network Policy Council

Details

Date: April 29, 2009

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

Attendees

- DeAnna Avey-Motikeit, Children and Family Services
 - Karen Bell, District Attorney – Juvenile
 - Danielle Boldt, Sheriff's Department
 - Joy Chadwick, 4th District Board of Supervisors
 - Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
 - Regina Coleman, County Counsel
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Chris Gardner, Public Defender – Juvenile
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
 - Margaret Hill, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
 - Mike Markel, County Counsel
 - Chairman Ovitt, 4th District Board of Supervisors
 - Allan Rawland, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Mike Schertell, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Michelle Scray, Probation Department
 - Honorable Marsha Slough, Juvenile Court
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Sue Taylor, Children's Network
 - Kathy Turnbull, Children's Network
 - Beatriz Valdez, CAO – Grants Coordinator
 - Trinity Wallace-Ellis, C.A.S.A.
 - Kathy Watkins, Human Services Legislation and Research
 - Richard Louis, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Stephen Morales, DBH/TAY
 - Bridget Garcia, Human Services, TAD
 - Amber Dukes, Human Services Legislation and Research
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Welcome and Introductions

Judge Slough convened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Welcome and self-introductions were made.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as submitted by Linda Haugan and seconded by Michelle Scray. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

**Topics
discussed**

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Welcome and Introductions	Slough
Approval of Agenda	Slough
Approval of March minutes	Slough
Children's Network Report	Cousineau
Children's Fund Report	Stafford
Juvenile Drug Court	Slough
Children and Family Services Updates	Avey-Motikeit
Approval IPC Policy/Procedures	Cousineau
Other Announcements	All
Public Comment	

**Key points:
Children's
Network
Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Kicked off the Month of Child Abuse Prevention which is a National event.
- Children's Network had another successful Shine the Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast this morning.
- The CAP (Child Abuse Prevention) team has been going out to the City Council meetings to adopt the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention efforts.
- May 2nd will kick off the Safe Summer campaign.
- The Foster Youth Summit is coming up on May 9th from noon to 7 p.m. at CSUSB (Cal State University San Bernardino). Kathy Watkins mentioned she got a call from Assemblywoman Carter's office wanting to speak at the event.
- Another event that is in the planning stages is the College Fair for foster and probation high school juniors and seniors. The event will be on August 8th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Redlands, Orton Center, 1200 E. Colton Avenue, Redlands.
- Another training event being hosted by Children's Network and other collaborative partners is the Dr. Bruce Perry training on June 4th at the Lions Center, 9161 Baseline Road, Rancho Cucamonga. This will be an all day training session. Dr. Bruce Perry is an expert in the brain development field. For more information call (909) 383-9659.
- Children's Network Annual Conference will be September 23rd and 24th at the Ontario Convention Center.

**Key points:
Children's
Fund Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Children's Fund Board has offered an endowment scholarship for some foster youth to attend CSUSB and Cal Poly, Pomona.
 - They are pleased to support the Judge's running program by purchasing running shoes and attire for the Probation girls.
 - They have received funding from the Los Angeles Times through the Mirror Foundation to send more children to summer camp. They will be expanding to include the youth that are placed through Kin Care.
 - They are in the process of raising money for the June 15th Golf Tournament and hope to raise \$480,000.
 - Judge Slough mentioned that there are several foster care and Probation youth that may be interested in basketball and could use some assistance with their attire.
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**Key points:
Juvenile Drug
Court**

The following highlights were given:

- Judge Slough spoke about the importance of Juvenile Drug Courts for foster and Probation youth.
 - They are in the process of implementing the court in Victorville and there are plans to have one here in the central valley. Karen Bell and Chris Gardner are collaborating to get the Central Valley Juvenile Drug Court operating.
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**Key points:
Children and
Family Services
Update**

The following highlights were given:

- DeAnna Avey-Motikeit mentioned that the SIP (System Improvement Plan) was reviewed and approved by this council in February 2009.
- Some things Children and Family Services (CFS) are involved with are; Foster Care Services Steering Committee; Peer and Family Assistance programs; ILP (Independent Living Program) so that the youth can learn life skills, graduate from high school and go onto college; and Jeff Wagner, Deputy Director for CFS is working with WIA (Workforce Investment Act) to flush out the details for a 12 month program at ARMC (Arrowhead Regional Medical Center).
- Judge Slough attended high school and GED graduation of 80 youth in the Foster Care System. She is very pleased with the outcome and is encouraged that more youth are graduating from high school and thinking about attending college.
- DeAnna was asked last Friday, on the Blue Ribbon Commission Report that took place in San Francisco in December to give an update. She reported on 5 collaborative efforts, events, etc. that CFS has been involved with.
- Judge Slough mentioned that Justice Moreno, Chair wants to use some data from this county and is pleased with all our collaborative efforts.

**Key points:
IPC/Policy and
Procedures**

The following highlights were given:

- Amy Cousineau directed everyone in their agenda packet to the **IPC/Policy and Procedures item. This was the first time for Policy Council members to see this item, so Amy asked them to read it at another time, and e-mail her any changes that are needed.**
- A workgroup was formed about a year ago through Policy Council and has been meeting to discuss the needed changes *to the IPC process*.
- DBH (Department of Behavioral Health), Probation, CFS (Children and Family Services), etc. have been meeting for around 20 years to discuss high level placements RCL 14 (Rate Classification Letter), out-of-state, *and out-of-county* placements.
- One item this group has tackled is how to handle new group home requests, and expansion of group homes in San Bernardino County.
- The group home provider presents their request to the IPC (Interagency Placement Council). Then the IPC forwards a recommendation to Children's Policy Council (PC). The PC forwards a recommendation to the CAO. The CAO makes the final determination, in consultation with the impacted Supervisorial District.
- The policy could address how often a provider can make requests. For example, a provider would have to wait one year to make the request, if initially denied.
- **Amy would like to have this request placed on the agenda for May, 2009 as an action item.**
- Judge Slough asked if there is an Appeal or Writ process for those providers whom wish to challenge a denial, rather than wait one year. **Response: Regina Coleman mentioned there is no appeal or writ process.**
- Mike mentioned that group home providers are directed to look at the current Group Home Needs Assessment, which states what type of group homes are needed in San Bernardino County.
- There was general discussion that the need for group homes in this county which has declined due to Wraparound and other programs to keep the child in their own community.
- **Judge Slough felt the Policy Council group needs to have adequate time to review the IPC Policy/Procedures and give recommendations at the May Policy Council meeting.**
- *Judge Slough* thinks there needs to be an appeal process in place, as some providers will not want to wait for one year to act on their request.
- **A decision was made to table any action on this item today.**
- Mike Schertell will contact other County Departments of Behavioral Health to see how they manage their group home requests.

**Key points:
Other
Announcement**

The following highlights were given:

- Danielle Boldt asked if fingerprints and photos are taken of young children taken into protective custody. Response: DeAnna mentioned that CFS does not have the right to take finger prints or photos, while the child is temporarily detained.
- Danielle mentioned would it be possible to have children going into foster care fingerprinted and photographed and that information just kept on file? Response: Yes, will need to coordinate the efforts with Children and Family Services, Deputy Director, Jeff Wagner.
- Chris Gardner mentioned that the Public Defender office would be concerned how long the fingerprints are kept, and if privacy issues could be breached.
- Allan Rawland mentioned that May is Mental Health and Foster Care month. This year there will be one event, Evening with the Stars on May 27th at the Hilton.
- Allan stated they recently hired a new Cultural Competence Officer, Veronica Kelley who comes with lots of experience.
- University of Phoenix is offering 50 full scholarships for foster youth. Stephen Morales and Richard Burgess were awarded scholarships.
- Margaret Hill will be honored at the Time for Change Foundation luncheon on April 30th for her work in the community.
- Allan mentioned through a capital campaign and numerous other funding sources there will be a 14 bed residential crisis unit for 18 to 25 year olds.

The building they are planning to refurbish is the old H-North/H-South building of the County hospital. It will be in close proximity to the San Bernardino TAY (Transitional Age Youth) Center.

- Amy reminded the group they were welcome to stay and watch the Documentary on girls in prostitution.

**Key points:
Public
Comments**

None

Next Meeting

May 27th at noon, County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.